The news-item dated 30th October in 'Jansatta' stated that the residents of Trans-Yamuna areas have to suffer due to inadequate number of Post Offices, Postmen and letter-boxes while complaints of loss of letters and delay in their delivery have become common. A specific plea for improvement in Johripur-Karawal Nagar has also been made alongwith the request for general improvement in postal services in Trans-Yamuna area.

(c) Increase in work load due to rapid growth in Trans-Yamuna area had put strain on the postal system. Additional postmen staff has been deployed earmarking the staff required for Johripur-Karawal Nagar locality in particular. Two additional Post Offices have also been sanctioned for Sonia Vihar and Indraprastha Extn. and the Department is on the lookout for suitable accommodation.

Additional letter-boxes have also been installed in Trans-Yamuna area inclusive of requirements of Johripur-Karawal Nagar. There have been occasional cases of loss of registered and insured articles. Orders have been given for erpeditious sanction of ex-gratia payment in respect of registered articles and settlement of claim regarding insured articles.

Foreign Technologies

1911. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a public apprehension over the plethora of foreign technologies that would be inducted in the existing network, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware of the feelings of the DOT officials that the new system had been hurriedly picked up without considering that they could pose major installation problems, if so, what steps Government propose to take to avoid such problems; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there could be serious compatibility problems in matching the different systems, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No written communication in this regard has been received.

(c) No compatibility problem is envisaged.

टेलीफोन डायरेक्टरी निःशुल्क उपलब्ध कराया जाना

1912. **श्री गोविंदराव आदिक :**

श्री प्रमोद महाजन :

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ निजी कंपनियों ने उपभोक्ताओं को देश के महत्वपूर्ण शहरों की टेलीफोन डायरेक्टरी निःशुल्क उपलब्ध कराने की पेशकश की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इनका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार सार्वजनिक हित और उपभोक्ताओं को प्रतिवर्ष अद्यतन टेलीफोन डायरेक्टरी की उपलब्धता को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस पेशकश को स्वीकार करने का विचार रखती है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इनका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुख राम) : (क) से (घ) मौजूदा अनुदेशों के अनुसार, दूरसंचार जिला प्रबंधक और इससे उच्च स्तर के अधिकारी के अधीन टेलीफोन जिलों के पीले पृष्ठों वाली टेलीफोन डायरेक्टरियों का मुद्रण संविदा के जरिए करवाया जाता है जिसके लिए फर्म के साथ महानगरों तथा बड़े जिलों के संबंध में पांच वर्ष और छोटे जिलों के संबंध में तीन वर्ष के लिए व्यापक संविदा की जाती है। संविदा की शर्तों के अनुसार, संविदाकार प्रत्येक वर्ष अपेक्षित संख्या में टेलीफोन डायरेक्टरियों की निःशुल्क आपूर्ति करता है और विभाग का पूर्व निर्धारित रायल्टी का भुगतान करता है।

(ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Telecom Facilities in Backward and Tribal Areas of Tamilnadu

1913. SHRI S. AUSTIN:
SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to provide telecommunication facilities in backward and tribal areas of Tamilnadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have formulated a plan to provide telecommunication facilities to tribal areas of the country including Tamil Nadu, Backward areas, as such, have not been defined.

(b) District-wise details up to 30-11-94 are given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below).

(c) Question does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

Statement

District-wise details of Telecommunications facilities in Tribal areas of Tamil Nadu as on 30-11-94

Sl. No.	Items	Name of District			Total
		Salem	Dr. Ambedkar	Dharmapuri	
1.	No. of Telephone exchanges	7	1	1	9
2.	Switched capacity (lines)	792	80	56	928
3.	Direct Exchange Lines	671	55	23	749
4.	Village Public Telephones	27	16	10	53
5.	STD Stations	5	Nil	Nil	5
6.	Telex Connection	4	Nil	Nil	4
7.	Telegraph/combined office	27	16	10	53

Postal Services in Chhatisgarh and Raipur in Madhya Pradesh

1914. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans to improve Postal Services in Chhatisgarh and Raipur region in Madhya Pradesh during 1994-95;

(b) whether any new post offices are likely to be opened in Chhatisgarh and Raipur region during this year;

(c) whether it is a fact that many remote and interior areas in these regions are not properly served by postal department; and

(d) if so, the detailed measures/steps taken to improve postal services in the region of Chhatisgarh and Raipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Raipur Head Post Office, Jabalpur Head Post Office, Raipur RMS, Jabalpur RMS and Jabalpur City sorting Office have been selected for operational upgradation and modernisation. Raipur Head Post Office has also been selected for modernisation of its counters and Post Office operations. Besides, twenty four (24) multi-purpose counter machines have been provided in seven Post Offices in Raipur and Chhatisgarh Regions.

(b) It is proposed to open 8 Post Offices in Chhatisgarh and Raipur Regions in Madhya Pradesh during 1994-95.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. All remote and interior areas are being served by the nearest existing Post Office. The postal network in rural areas is also being gradually expanded depending on the availability of resources/targets.

Postal Services in Kachh District in Gujarat

1915. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans to improve postal services in Kachh district in Gujarat during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) whether any new post offices are likely to be opened in Kachh district during this year;

(c) whether it is fact that many interior areas in Kachh district are not properly served by postal department;

(d) if so, the steps/measures proposed to be taken to improve postal services in district of Kachh; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) It is proposed to instal five multipurpose computer based counter machines during 1994-95 and four during 1995-96 in Kachh district. Further, for improvement of postal services, it is planned to construct six departmental buildings in this area subject to availability of resources.

(b) to (e) No new post offices are proposed to be opened in Kachh District. The district is adequately served by post offices. At present 504 post offices including 435 extra departmental branch post offices are functioning in the district. The EDBOs serve the interior and remote areas of the district. A post office serves a population of 2645 persons in the district which is better than the national ratio.